

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
School of Theatre



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March 17, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with enthusiasm that I write this letter in support of Jon Ferreira's application for an intern position. Jon is quickly nearing a successful completion of our MFA program in directing. In the past three years, I taught him in a number of classes, supervised his production work, and benefited from his assistance in teaching undergraduate classes. Jon assisted me in my work as Artistic Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in addition to working as an actor and my assistant director over two summers. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending him to you.

Jon is an extraordinarily bright man – one of the best researchers and writers to go through this program in more than 15 years. His analysis skills are very good, and he is able to make clear and pertinent connections between dramatic literature and other areas of study. More than any other student I have taught, Jon's writing illuminates the relevancy of theatre to a contemporary world. His thinking is embrasive of a wide range of disciplines and his writing is muscular and exciting.

In addition to having a great intellect, Jon is a wonderfully creative artist. He has directed a wide variety of genres while here, including playwrights with highly divergent styles – Adam Rapp, Charles Mee, Christopher Hampton, Shakespeare, etc. He has an excellent sense of rhythm and the way a story is built dramatically. He is particularly sensitive to the power of physical work and its ability to assist actor and audience. His production of *Macbeth* was tremendously exciting. He cut the text wisely and told the story with clarity and immediacy. He got excellent performances all around and a beautiful design.

Jon is also an articulate and dedicated teacher. He taught a number of different courses here – including an intro to the theatre course for non-majors and the department's required introduction to stage direction course. His energetic and passionate leadership in the classroom made him effective and popular.

Jon's work as my assistant at the Shakespeare Festival was so successful that I asked him to be retained in that position for three semesters and was sorry when he left for his internship semester. He was well organized, unfailingly diplomatic in dealing with endless requests for auditions, and extremely useful in evaluating talent. Personally, it was also wonderful to have such a pleasant traveling companion over the many months of auditions.

Jon will work hard and brings with him a boundless and ambitious enthusiasm for learning. He will provide you with useful talents and be a joy to have around. You will not regret choosing him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie R. Alley".

Deb Alley
Head – MFA Directing Program
Artistic Director – Illinois Shakespeare Festival